**A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS**

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**ANALYSIS**

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**ASSIGNMENT**

**DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

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The poem tells how the speaker’s house was readied for the arrival of St. Nickolas by hanging stockings by the chimney and all the children were in bed. Later on, the speaker witnessing the visit of the secret guest who brought the joy through presents and the Christmas spirit.

Below, is an attempt to analyze the poem according to Halliday’s metafunction: ideational, interpersonal and textual.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

*Ideational: because it is describing the Christmas night which is an existing event that people celebrate each year.*

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

*Textual (lexical cohesion), since there is mention of hyponymy- creature and mouse.*

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

*Ideational: because it is describing a ritual we use to do in Christmas by hanging stocks.*

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

*Ideational: because kids expect St.Nicholas to arrive at their house.*

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

*Textual (lexical cohesion), since there is a substitution the children then their beds.*

While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,

*Textual (lexical cohesion).*

Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

*Ideational, because it is describing the length of winter nights.*

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

*Ideational, even though there is a description of scary sounds of flies; however, the fact there is no danger is clear.*

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,

*Ideational, describing the scenery of the night, the moon and the snow.*

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,

But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

*Textual (lexical cohesion and coherence)*

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

*Ideational, because there is description of the arrival of the awaited person.*

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

*Textual (lexical coherence) for the existence of the comparative pronoun.*

And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

*Textual (lexical cohesion) for the existence of the additive ‘and’.*

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!

On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!

Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

*Interpersonal, for the existence of the spoken texts.*

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

*Textual (lexical cohesion)*

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,

Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

*Ideational, for the above is describing the context of how it is done.*

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,

And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

*Ideational, because it is describing how St.Nicholas dress up.*

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

*Ideational, because it is describing St.Nicholas appearance.*

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

*Textual (lexical cohesion).*

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,

Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

*Ideational, because it is describing St.Nicholas appearance and his task in the house.*

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

*Textual (lexical cohesion) for the usage of conjunctive elements.*

And laying his finger aside of his nose,

And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,

And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

*Ideational, because it is describing St.Nicholas appearance, his task in the house and how he called his reindeer once he finished putting the gifts.*

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT

*Interpersonal because he is saying good night and Merry Christmas to people.*